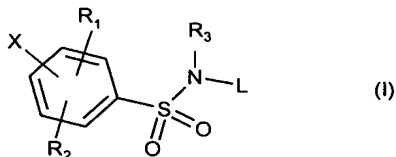


Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A compound of the formula



wherein

R₁ and R₂ are independently hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, optionally substituted alkyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl; or

R₁ and R₂ combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted fused 5- to 6-membered aromatic or heteroaromatic ring provided that R₁ and R₂ are attached to carbon atoms adjacent to each other; or

R₁ and R₂ combined are alkylene which together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a fused 5- to 7-membered ring provided that R₁ and R₂ are attached to carbon atoms adjacent to each other; or

R₁-C and R₂-C may independently be replaced by nitrogen;

R₃ is hydrogen or optionally substituted lower alkyl;

X is -Z-(CH₂)_p-Q-W wherein

Z is a bond, O, S, S(O), S(O)₂ or -C(O)-; or

Z is -C(O)NR₄- in which

R₄ is hydrogen, alkyl or aralkyl;

p is an integer from 1 to 8;

Q is a bond; or

Q is -O(CH₂)_r- or -S(CH₂)_r- in which

r is zero or an integer from 1 to 8; or

Q is -C(O)- or -C(O)NR₅- in which

R₅ is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl; or

Q is -NR₆-, -NR₆C(O)-, -NR₆C(O)NR₇- or -NR₆C(O)O- in which

R₆ is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl;

R₇ is hydrogen, alkyl or aralkyl;

W is cycloalkyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl; or

W and R₅ taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic or 8- to 12-membered bicyclic ring, which may be optionally substituted or may contain another heteroatom selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur; or

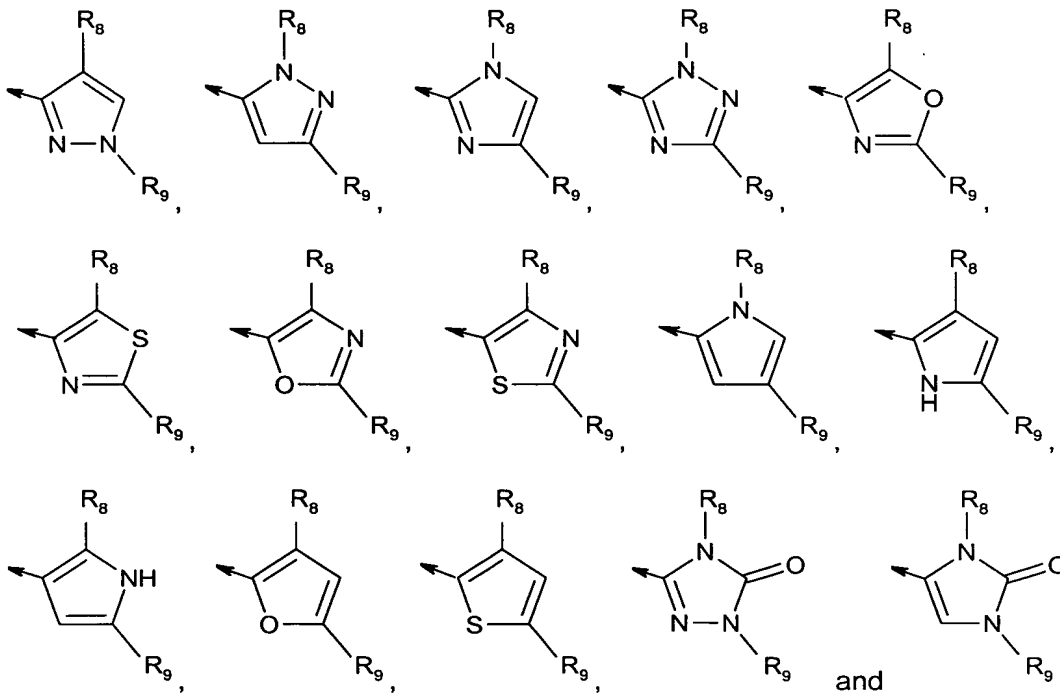
W and R₇ taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic or 8- to 12-membered bicyclic ring, which may be optionally substituted or may contain another heteroatom selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur;

L is a 5-membered aromatic heterocycle;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a prodrug derivative thereof.

Claim 2 (original): A compound according to claim 1, wherein

L is a 5-membered aromatic heterocycle selected from:



wherein

R₈ is optionally substituted alkyl, aralkyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, -C(O)R₁₀, -C(O)OR₁₁ or -C(O)NR₁₂R₁₃ in which

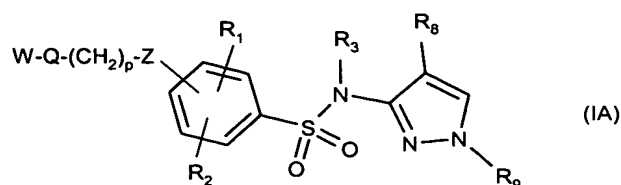
R₁₀ is optionally substituted lower alkyl;

R_{11} , R_{12} and R_{13} are independently hydrogen or optionally substituted lower alkyl;

R₉ is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, aryl or aralkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a prodrug derivative thereof.

Claim 3 (original): A compound according to claim 2 of the formula



wherein

R_1 and R_2 are independently hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, optionally substituted alkyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl; or

R_1 and R_2 combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted fused 5- to 6-membered aromatic or heteroaromatic ring provided that R_1 and R_2 are attached to carbon atoms adjacent to each other; or

R_1 and R_2 combined are alkylene which together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a fused 5- to 7-membered ring provided that R_1 and R_2 are attached to carbon atoms adjacent to each other; or

R_1-C and R_2-C may independently be replaced by nitrogen;

R_3 is hydrogen or optionally substituted lower alkyl;

Z is a bond, O, S, S(O), S(O)₂ or -C(O)-; or

Z is -C(O)NR₄- in which

R_4 is hydrogen, alkyl or aralkyl;

p is an integer from 1 to 8;

Q is a bond; or

Q is -O(CH₂)_r- or -S(CH₂)_r- in which

r is zero or an integer from 1 to 8; or

Q is -C(O)- or -C(O)NR₅- in which

R_5 is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl; or

Q is -NR₆-, -NR₆C(O)-, -NR₆C(O)NR₇- or -NR₆C(O)O- in which

R_6 is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl;

R_7 is hydrogen, alkyl or aralkyl;

W is cycloalkyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl; or

W and R_5 taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic or 8- to 12-membered bicyclic ring, which may be optionally substituted or may contain another heteroatom selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur; or

W and R₇ taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic or 8- to 12-membered bicyclic ring, which may be optionally substituted or may contain another heteroatom selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur;

R₈ is optionally substituted alkyl, aralkyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, -C(O)R₁₀, -C(O)OR₁₁ or -C(O)NR₁₂R₁₃ in which

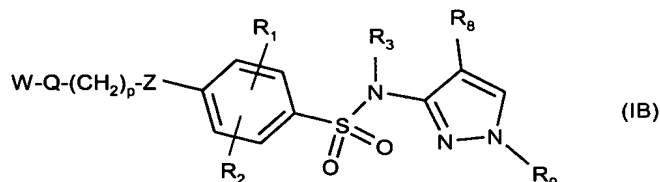
R₁₀ is optionally substituted lower alkyl;

R₁₁, R₁₂ and R₁₃ are independently hydrogen or optionally substituted lower alkyl;

R₉ is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, aryl or aralkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a prodrug derivative thereof.

Claim 4 (original): A compound according to claim 3 of the formula



wherein

R₁ and R₂ are independently hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, optionally substituted alkyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl;

R₃ is hydrogen;

Z is a bond, O, S, S(O), S(O)₂ or -C(O)-; or

Z is -C(O)NR₄- in which

R₄ is hydrogen, alkyl or aralkyl;

p is an integer from 1 to 5;

Q is a bond; or

Q is -O(CH₂)_r- or -S(CH₂)_r- in which

r is zero; or

Q is -C(O)- or -C(O)NR₅- in which

R₅ is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl; or

Q is -NR₆-, -NR₆C(O)-, -NR₆C(O)NR₇- or -NR₆C(O)O- in which

R₆ is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl;

R₇ is hydrogen, alkyl or aralkyl;

W is cycloalkyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl;

R_8 is optionally substituted alkyl, aralkyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, $-C(O)R_{10}$, $-C(O)OR_{11}$ or $-C(O)NR_{12}R_{13}$ in which

R_{10} is optionally substituted lower alkyl;

R_{11} , R_{12} and R_{13} are independently hydrogen or optionally substituted lower alkyl;

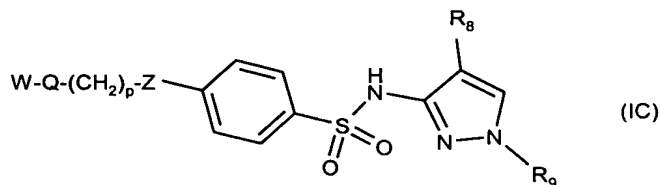
R_9 is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, aryl or aralkyl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a prodrug derivative thereof.

Claim 5 (original): A compound according to claim 4, wherein

R_1 and R_2 are hydrogen;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a prodrug derivative thereof.

Claim 6 (original): A compound according to claim 5 of the formula



wherein

Z is a bond, O or S;

p is an integer from 1 to 5;

Q is a bond; or

Q is O or S; or

Q is $-C(O)NR_5-$ in which

R_5 is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl; or

Q is $-NR_6-$, $-NR_6C(O)-$, $-NR_6C(O)NR_7-$ or $-NR_6C(O)O-$ in which

R_6 is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl;

R_7 is hydrogen, alkyl or aralkyl;

W is cycloalkyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl;

R_8 is optionally substituted alkyl, aralkyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, $-C(O)R_{10}$, $-C(O)OR_{11}$ or $-C(O)NR_{12}R_{13}$ in which

R_{10} is optionally substituted lower alkyl;

R_{11} , R_{12} and R_{13} are independently hydrogen or optionally substituted lower alkyl;

R_9 is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, aryl or aralkyl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a prodrug derivative thereof.

Claim 7 (original): A compound according to claim 6, wherein

R_8 is $-C(O)OR_{11}$ in which R_{11} is hydrogen or lower alkyl;

R_9 is lower alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a prodrug derivative thereof.

Claim 8 (original): A compound according to claim 7, wherein

R_8 is $-C(O)OR_{11}$ in which R_{11} is ethyl;

R_9 is ethyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a prodrug derivative thereof.

Claim 9 (original): A compound according to claim 7, wherein

Z is a bond, O or S;

p is an integer of 2 or 3;

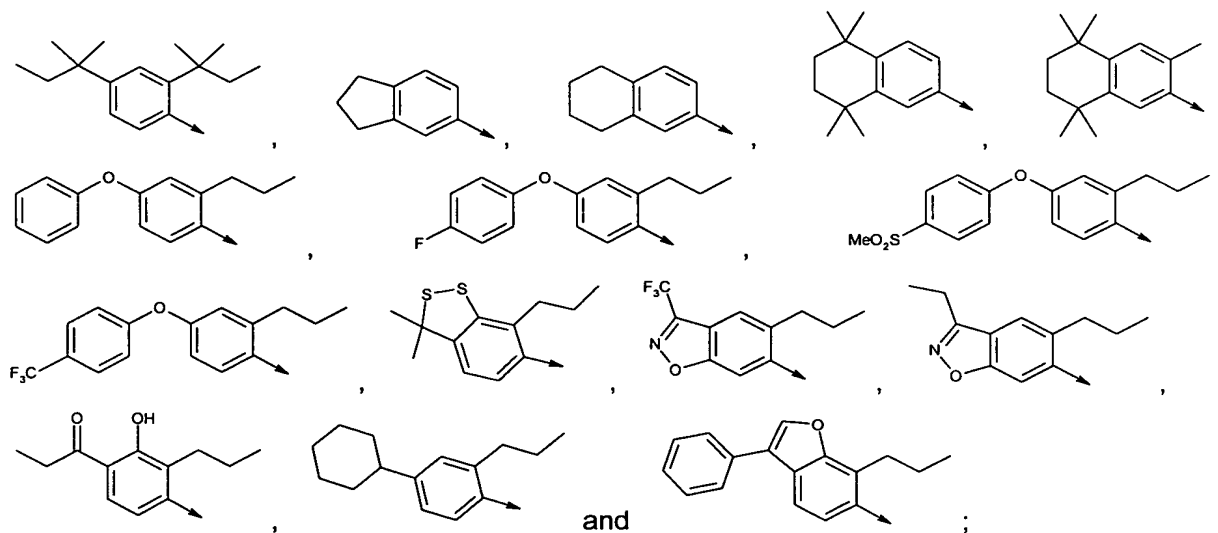
Q is O or S;

W is aryl or heterocyclyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a prodrug derivative thereof.

Claim 10 (original): A compound according to claim 9, wherein

W is selected from the group consisting of:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a prodrug derivative thereof.

Claim 11 (original): A compound according to claim 7, wherein

Z is O or S;

p is an integer of 1 or 2;

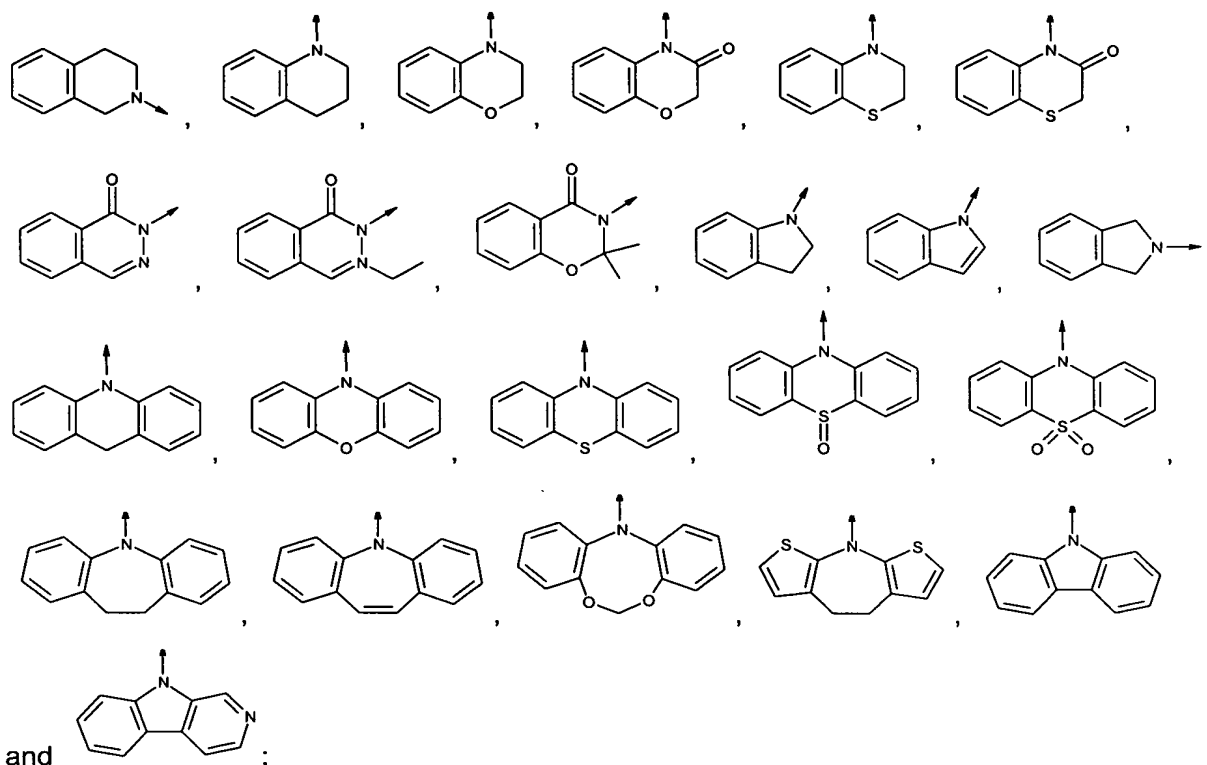
Q is a bond;

W is aryl or heterocyclyl;

Claim 14 (original): A compound according to claim 11, wherein

p is 2;

W is selected from the group consisting of:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a prodrug derivative thereof.

Claim 15 (original): A compound according to claim 1, which is selected from the group consisting of:

3-[4-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonylamino]-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid;

1-Benzyl-3-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonylamino]-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;

1-Benzyl-3-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonylamino]-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid;

1-Methyl-3-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonylamino]-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;

1-Methyl-3-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonylamino]-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid;

1-Ethyl-3-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonylamino]-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;

1-Ethyl-3-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonylamino]-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid;

1-Allyl-3-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonylamino]-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;

1-Allyl-3-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonylamino]-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid;

3-[4-[5-Methyl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-benzene-sulfonylamino]-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;

3-[4-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonylamino]-1-propyl-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;

1-Ethyl-3-[4-[5-methyl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-benzene-sulfonylamino]-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;

1-Ethyl-3-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonylamino]-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid methylamide;

1-Ethyl-3-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonylamino]-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid dimethylamide;

1-Ethyl-3-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonylamino]-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid cyclopropylmethyl-amide;

1-Ethyl-3-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonylamino]-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid amide;

1-Ethyl-3-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonylamino]-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid ethylamide;

1-Ethyl-3-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonylamino]-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid benzylamide;

N-[1-Ethyl-4-(piperidine-1-carbonyl)-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonamide;

N-(4-Benzoyl-1-ethyl-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonamide; and

1-Ethyl-3-{methyl-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonyl]-amino}-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 16 (original): A method for the activation of Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptors (PPARs) which method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

Claim 17 (original): A method for the treatment of conditions mediated by PPARs which method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

Claim 18 (original): The method according to claim 17, which method comprises administering said compound in combination with a therapeutically effective amount of insulin, insulin derivative or mimetic; insulin secretagogue; insulinotropic sulfonylurea receptor ligand; insulin sensitizer; biguanide; alpha-glucosidase inhibitors; GLP-1, GLP-1 analog or mimetic; DPPIV inhibitor; HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor; squalene synthase inhibitor; FXR or LXR ligand; cholestyramine; fibrates; nicotinic acid or aspirin.

Claim 19 (original): A method for the treatment of dyslipidemia, hyperlipidemia, hypercholesteremia, atherosclerosis, hypertriglyceridemia, heart failure, myocardial infarction, vascular diseases, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, obesity, inflammation, arthritis, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, skin disorders, respiratory diseases, ophthalmic disorders, IBDs, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, type-1 and type-2 diabetes, and Syndrome-X which method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

Claim 20 (original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

Claim 21 (original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 in combination with a therapeutically effective amount of insulin, insulin derivative or mimetic; insulin secretagogue; insulinotropic sulfonylurea receptor ligand; insulin sensitizer; biguanide; alpha-glucosidase inhibitors; GLP-1, GLP-1 analog or mimetic; DPPIV inhibitor; HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor; squalene synthase inhibitor; FXR or LXR ligand; cholestyramine; fibrates; nicotinic acid; or aspirin.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 20 ~~or 24~~, for the treatment of dyslipidemia, hyperlipidemia, hypercholesteremia, atherosclerosis, hypertriglyceridemia, heart failure, myocardial infarction, vascular diseases, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, obesity, inflammation, arthritis, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, skin disorders, respiratory diseases, ophthalmic disorders, inflammatory bowel diseases, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, type-1 and type-2 diabetes, and Syndrome-X.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 20 ~~or 24~~, for use as medicament.

Claim 24 (currently amended): Use of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 20 ~~or~~ 24, for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of conditions associated with PPAR activity.

Claim 25 (original): Use of a compound according to claim 1, for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of conditions associated with PPAR activity.

Claim 26 (currently amended): Use according to claim 24 ~~or~~ 25, wherein the condition associated with PPAR activity is selected from dyslipidemia, hyperlipidemia, hypercholesteremia, atherosclerosis, hypertriglyceridemia, heart failure, myocardial infarction, vascular diseases, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, obesity, inflammation, arthritis, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, skin disorders, respiratory diseases, ophthalmic disorders, inflammatory bowel diseases, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, type-1 and type-2 diabetes, and Syndrome-X.

Claim 27 (original): A compound according to claim 1, for use as a medicament.

Claim 28 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 21, for the treatment of dyslipidemia, hyperlipidemia, hypercholesteremia, atherosclerosis, hypertriglyceridemia, heart failure, myocardial infarction, vascular diseases, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, obesity, inflammation, arthritis, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, skin disorders, respiratory diseases, ophthalmic disorders, inflammatory bowel diseases, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, type-1 and type-2 diabetes, and Syndrome-X.

Claim 29 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 21, for use as medicament.

Claim 30 (new): Use of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 21, for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of conditions associated with PPAR activity.

Claim 31 (new): Use according to claim 25, wherein the condition associated with PPAR activity is selected from dyslipidemia, hyperlipidemia, hypercholesteremia, atherosclerosis, hypertriglyceridemia, heart failure, myocardial infarction, vascular diseases, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, obesity, inflammation, arthritis, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, skin disorders, respiratory diseases, ophthalmic disorders, inflammatory bowel diseases, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, type-1 and type-2 diabetes, and Syndrome-X.